

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A finger-mounted surgical instrument comprising:

- a) a first jaw and a second jaw in an opposing relationship;
- b) a first and a second lever arm, each having a distal end connected to the first and second jaw, respectively, and a proximal end, wherein the distal ends of the first and second lever arms interface in an overlapping relationship, and the lever arms in combination form a substantially U-shaped structure [that defines an aperture] for slidably receiving [the distal end of] a finger from the proximal end towards the distal end, wherein the first lever arm is arranged to permit movement of the first jaw relative to the second jaw and the second lever arm is arranged to permit movement of the second jaw relative to the first jaw.

21. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 20 further comprising a finger mount for supporting a fingertip of a user.

22. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 20 wherein the first and second jaws are curved.

23. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 20 further comprising a fastening element attached to a lever arm.

24. (Currently amended) A method of performing a minimally invasive surgical procedure in a patient comprising:

- a) creating an incision to permit hand access within the patient;
- b) introducing a finger-mounted surgical instrument of claim 20 within the patient;

- c) slidably engaging a finger within the [aperture] instrument; and
- d) performing a surgical instrument using the finger-mounted surgical instrument.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of actuating the first and second lever arms to grasp tissue.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of actuating the first and second lever arms to dissect tissue.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of performing blunt tissue dissection with at least one jaw.